



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**EVENT: Guilty Pleas**

**Defendant: Nosh Gojcay et al**

**GUILTY PLEAS IN U. S. / CANADIAN ALIEN SMUGGLING PROSECUTION**

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The last of eleven U.S.-apprehended defendants charged in a joint U.S./ Canadian takedown of a Northern border alien smuggling conspiracy pleaded guilty in United States District Court in Detroit United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Nosh Gojcay, 35, of Macomb, Michigan pleaded guilty to an Indictment charging him and 17 other individuals with Conspiracy to Smuggle Illegal Aliens into the United States and to Harbor and Transport Illegal Aliens Within the United States. The indictment was unsealed on February 14, 2006 simultaneously with a joint U.S./Canadian take down of the alien smuggling organization.

Nine other co-conspirators also previously pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge as follows:

Duke Lumaj, 34, of West Bloomfield, Michigan on April 13, 2006

Bianca Gagliano, 25, of Windsor, Ontario on April 28, 2006

Kathleen Voneitzen, 49, of Vicksburg, Michigan on May 23, 2006  
Hoa Ly, 43, of Macomb, Michigan on September 5, 2006  
Roko Berisic, 32, of Shelby Township, Michigan on September 6, 2006  
Han Huang, 44, of Albion, Michigan on September 7, 2006  
Dod Martini, 41, of Macomb, Michigan on September 12, 2006  
Gui Liang Lin, 45, of Toronto, Ontario on September 15, 2006  
Melanie Franquist, 26, of Wallaceburg, Ontario on September 15, 2006

Co-conspirator Salah Rashem, 45, of Rockford, Illinois pleaded guilty to Re-entry After Deportation by an Aggravated Felon on September 27, 2006. The guilty pleas were entered before the Honorable Paul D. Borman, United States District Judge. Each of the convicted defendants face a maximum penalty of 5 years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine, with the exception of Rashem who faces a maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Also charged in the Indictment, but not yet apprehended by U.S. authorities, are: Maitham Aziz Alzehrani, 34, of Windsor, Ontario; Kola Bajraktari, 34, of Windsor, Ontario; Fran Gashaj, 40, of Windsor, Ontario; Zef Shpati, 40, of Windsor, Ontario; Kai Zheng You, 40, of Toronto, Ontario; Duke Bracaj, 36, of Windsor, Ontario. Colin Price, 40, of Windsor, Ontario jumped bond and fled the country after being arraigned in the United States. The Canadian-based defendants will first answer related Canadian charges before facing possible extradition to the United States.

The charges were based upon the interdiction of at least 74 illegal aliens smuggled into the United States by the organization and the more than 2,000 incriminating telephone conversations intercepted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) during the latter part of 2005.

"Human trafficking is one of the worst criminal acts that one person can commit against another. Those who smuggle human beings across international borders should realize that

they will be met with an international united front of law enforcement agencies dedicated to stopping them cold and putting them in jail. This is a great example of U.S. Canadian joint criminal enforcement that should be a warning to all human traffickers," said United States Attorney Murphy.

"Alien smuggling organizations are driven by greed with little regard to the health, well being, dignity, or motivation of their human cargo," said Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Detroit. "Attacking and dismantling these criminal groups is critical to securing our borders and ensuring compliance with our immigration and customs laws. Smugglers should understand that we will not tolerate nor allow the U.S. Canada border to be used as an opportunity for them to profit from their crimes - rather we will use our shared border as an opportunity for our nations to work together to bring them justice."

In announcing the guilty plea, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy commended the work of the Special Agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the U.S. Border Patrol, and the RCMP which conducted the investigation. Members of the Integrated Border Enforcement Team (IBET) were also involved in coordinating this transnational effort. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth R. Chadwell, the U.S. Attorney's Office Anti-Terrorism Immigration Coordinator.